



AO-7  
*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*Office of  
Campaign & Political Finance*

*One Ashburton Place, Boston 02108*

*727-8352*

*Dennis J. Duffin  
Director*

May 23, 1985  
AO-1985-07

Mr. Thomas M. Niarchos  
17 Cleveland Road  
Peabody, MA 01960

Dear Mr. Niarchos:

You have recently requested an advisory opinion as to whether the Peabody Ward 6 Democratic Committee may reimburse the ward delegates to the Massachusetts Democratic State Convention, for the registration fee of \$25.00.

In Advisory Opinion 1985-05, a copy of which is enclosed, I concluded that city, ward and town committees may pay for reasonable travel and related expenses, including delegate fees for the delegates elected at caucuses called by particular city, ward or town committee.

970 C.M.R. 2.05 (1) (1), [made applicable to city, ward and town committees by 970 C.M.R. 2.06 (3)] states,

"Reasonable travel and related expenses for...agents of a political committee in connection with...conventions, provided that the issues with which any such...convention is concerned are, within the scope of that person's direct and substantial responsibilities as an...agent of the committee, and whose subject matter is related to at least one of the following:

1. party politics..."

The facts surrounding the payment of reasonable travel and related expenses by city, ward and town committees for their delegates to the Democratic State Convention appear to meet the necessary criteria under this regulation, and are therefore permitted. However, these expenses must be reasonable, and may not extend beyond payment for transportation to and from the convention, and appropriate room and board expenses through the duration of the convention and delegate fees. Each committee must treat all of its delegates in an identical manner, and may not provide a higher stipend for one delegate as opposed to another.

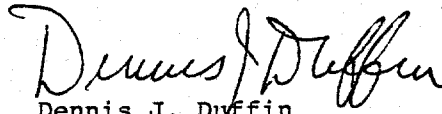
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This opinion should, in no way, be construed to permit political committees, other than city, ward and town political committees, to expend funds for travel or room and board expenses for delegates to political party conventions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dennis J. Duffin".

Dennis J. Duffin

Director

DJD/rep

enclosure